been appointed under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, whose functions *inter-alia* include monitoring the implementation of reservation policy in employment and education.

Restoration of Tribal Status to Adivasis in Assam

738. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming up with a bill for restoration of Tribal Status of the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Tribes) in Assam as their counterparts living in West Bengal and Tripura State Tea Industry and villages have been enjoying tribal status since inception of the Constitution; and

(b) whether it is not a Constitutional discrimination to the Adivasis of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342 of the Constitution. The lists of Scheduled Tribes are state specific. The criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are:

(i) indications of primitive traits,

(ii) Distinctive culture,

(iii) Geographical isolation,

(iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and

(v) Backwardness

The proposals of the Government of Assam for inclusion of Tea Garden Labour Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam has been processed as per the approved modalities.

Scheme for Welfare of Tribals in Gujarat

739. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented for welfare of tribals living in forests, State-wise particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribals due to shrinking of forest areas;